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LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UZBEKISTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint Russian-Uzbek statement of 8 February 1994 on Afghanistan (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to
the United Nations

(Signed) F. MAQSUDI
Acting Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Uzbekistan
to the United Nations

Annex

Joint Russian-Uzbek statement of 8 February 1994

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Uzbekistan, in confirming the position of principle of their countries concerning non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, express deep concern at the new outbreak in the ongoing armed conflict there. That turn of events clouds the prospects for bringing the situation in that country back to normal.

They call for a cessation of the fratricidal war in Afghanistan, and urgently appeal to all Afghan military and political forces to refrain from reliance on coercion and to initiate a joint search for political compromises in the interests of national consolidation and reconciliation.

The parties consider that the conflict in Afghanistan is the consequence of internal contradictions in that country and threatens security and stability in the region. They are seriously concerned at the rise in tension on the southern borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Russia and Uzbekistan support the integrity and inviolability of the State frontiers of Afghanistan. They are convinced that the settlement of existing contradictions and the determination of the future path of development of Afghanistan is primarily a matter for the Afghans themselves. The parties intend to continue to maintain strict neutrality and to respect the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Russia and Uzbekistan are ready to do their utmost to assist in the attainment of those goals in the context of overall international efforts, in cooperation with the United Nations and all interested Governments.

In that connection the Ministers underscore the timeliness of the initiatives put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly on issues relating to the resolution of regional conflicts in central Asia, including the problem of Afghanistan, and their readiness to work together in order to put them into effect.

The parties reaffirm their readiness to develop good-neighbourly relations and all-round mutually advantageous cooperation with a peaceful, independent and sovereign Afghanistan in the interests of reinforcing the spirit of mutual understanding and confidence in the region.

A. V. KOZYREV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

S. M. SAID-KASIMOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Uzbekistan